Reorganisation of Public Distribution System

1823. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have not been able to take an immediate action to reorganise the PDS in the country ;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that in some States the PDS exists on paper only ;

(c) if so, what are the names of the States where PDS has not so far been in operation ;

(d) whether any concrete measures in this regard have been worked out by the committee which was set up by the Central Government ; and

(e) by when a final decision for reorganising the PDS will be undertaken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (e) It would not be correct to say that the Public Distribution (PDS) exists only on paper in some States. During 1993, about 14.2 million tonnes of foodgrains, 4.2 million tonnes of levy sugar and 8.4 million tonnes of kerosene were distributed through the PDS. In a vast operation of such magnitude, occasional shortcomings at some places cannot be ruled out altogether. Since the operational responsibility for actual distribution is that of the State Governments/UT Administrations, variation in administrative practices in implementing the PDS in diffrent States/UTs is bound to be there. Central and State Governments continue to make efforts to improve the functioning of the PDS.

A committee of Ministers from the State Governments was set up as per the recommendation of the Advisory Council on PDS for formulating recommendations on a Nttional Policy on PDS, particularly, focussing on the need to allocate larger and more meaningful qualities to the really needy and deserving sections of the society. The Report of the Committee of Ministers included a recommendation that "it is inescapable that the relatively better off sections of the population are excluded from access to the PDS in respect of foodgrains." The Advisory Council on PDS considered the Report of the Committee of Ministers in its meeting held in September, 93 and decided that the matter required further consultation with State Governments through the forum of the National Development Council. So far the Government has not taken any decision in the matter.

Family pension of erstwhile Super Bazar Employees

1824. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of family pension cases of the erstwhile employees of Super Bazar within the jurisdiction of General Manager have been awaiting sanction and settlement for a long time ;

(b) whether Government would direct Super Bazar authorities for the early settlement of the pending cases ;

(c) whether any separate department/section has been created to look after the settlement of such cases in the GM's Office ;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) the details of cases settled during the last three years and as on date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : Super Bazar has reported that no case of Family Pension is awaiting sanction of General Manager.